Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10880 301336Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
USIA-06 /038 W
----------008239 301418Z /45
R 300958Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6745
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10880

FOR NEA/EGY AND CU

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL EG
SUBJECT: GAMAL MUKHTAR AND TUTANKHAMEN EXHIBIT

REF: CAIRO 10094 (NOTAL)

1. SAW DG ANTIQUITIES GAMAL MUKHTAR LAST EVENING AT UNESCO SOCIAL FUNCTION. BECAUSE OF HIS DIFFERENCES WITH NEW MINCULTURE EL-SAWI, HE HAS KEPT OUT OF LIMELIGHT LAST FEW WEEKS AND IS VERY DEPRESSED. HE TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO RESIGN HIS DG ANTIQUITIES POSITION AND HAD SO INFORMED THE MINISTER. LATTER HAD ASKED HIM TO RECONSIDER, BUT HE HAD YESTERDAY CONFIRMED HIS DECISION TO LEAVE. HE WAS SLIGHTLY VAGUE ON WHEN HE WILL GIVE UP HIS DG ANTIQUITIES FUNCTIONS, BUT SAID IT WILL BE IN THE NEXT MONTH. HE EXPECTS TO TEACH EGYPTOLOGY AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY NEXT YEAR. HE HAS AGREED TO CONTINUE AS A "CONSULTANT" TO THE ANTIQUITIES DEPARTMENT AND SAID THAT PERHAPS SOME DAY, WHEN THE PRESENT MINCULTURE IS OUT (WHICH HE THINKS WILL NOT BE TOO LONG), HE MAY COME BACK TO HEAD THE ANTIQUITIES DEPARTMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 10880 301336Z

2. ASKED IF HE HAD HEARD FROM HOVING, MUKHTAR SAID NO. HE HAD WRITTEN TO HOVING URGING THE LATTER TO COME OUT TO CAIRO, BUT HAD HAD NO REPLY. MUKHTAR THINKS IT IS DESIRABLE THAT HOVING MAKES AN EARLY VISIT TO CLEAR THE AIR. HE WAS ALSO UNCERTAIN WHO WOULD LOOK AFTER KING TUT EXHIBIT, IN BEHALF OF ME, AFTER HOVING LEAVES. I TOLD HIM DEPT'S UNDERSTANDING IS HOVING'S

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

DEPUTY, PHILIPPE DE MONTEBELLO, WILL DO SO ON INTERIM BASIS UNTIL NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED (STATE 143700 NOTAL).

3. MUKHTAR ALSO TOLD ME THAT EL-SAWI HAS ADDED SAN FRANCISCO TO THE LIST OF FIVE CITIES ON THE TUT EXHIBIT ITINERARY. EL-SAWI HAD DONE SO AT THE SPECIFIC APPEAL OF THE MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO, WHO HAD ALLEGEDLY OFFERED $100,000 FOR THE EXHIBIT. THE SAN FRANCISCO STOP WILL BE AFTER WHAT HAD HERETOFORE BEEN THE FINAL STOP AT THE METROPOLITAN IN NEW YORK. MUKHTAR NOTED THAT THIS WILL PROBABLY MEAN THAT THE PROMISED CANADIAN EXHIBIT, WHICH WAS TO TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MET, WILL HAVE TO BE CANCELLED SINCE DATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN FIXED FOR THE SUBSEQUENT FRG STOP. THE FRG HAD IN FACT POSTPONED INITIALLY PLANNED DATES IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE CANADA. TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR HAS NOT YET BEEN TOLD..
EILTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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